

I.



R H A Y A D E R
R U R A L D I S T R I C T C O U N C I L

A N N U A L R E P O R T
of the
M E D I C A L O F F I C E R
O F H E A L T H

Y E A R S 1967 & 1968

Medical Officer of Health


JOHN DAVIES, M.B., B.Ch., B.Sc.,
(Medical Practitioner and Part-Time M.O.H.)
(Telephone: Rhayader 231)

Public Health Inspector

G.H. ROBERTS, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.,
(Certs. S.I.E.J.B. and Meat & Foods R.S.H.)
(Telephone: Rhayader 368)

Council Offices

Dolgerddon Hall, Rhayader. Telephone 355



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29902058>

M E M B E R S O F T H E C O U N C I L

Y E A R 1 9 6 7

Chairman: Ald. R. P. L. Hughes, J.P.

Vice-Chairman: D. H. Bound.

COUNCILLORS

Abbeycwmhir: F. P. Hamer; A. R. Lewis.

Cefnlllys Rural: J. W. Bufton.

Llanbadarnfawr: I. J. Lewis; C. H. Price.
(R. T. Knill deceased January 1967)

Llanfihangel Helygen: J. D. A. Thompson, J.P.

Llansantffraid J. D. Williams; V. Lewis.
Cwmdeuddwr: T. A. Morgan; M. A. Pugh.
(Maj. Gen. R.S. Lewis, C.B., O.B.E., and
W. Scott retired May).

Llanyre: Mrs F. A. Goldby; J. E. Jones.
(W.A. Probert and S.E. Lloyd retired May)

Nantmel: R.E.P. Jones; Rev. M. E. Evans; S. M. Richards.
(A.E. Oakley and I. Thomas retired May).

Rhayader: Ald. R. P. L. Hughes, J.P.; G. D. Morgan, C.C.

St. Harmon: D. H. Bound; Ald. E.T.K. Morgan, C.B.E., J.P.

COMMITTEES

Public Health and Housing:-

All members of the Council

Chairman:- G.D. Morgan, C.C.

Vice-Chairman:- J. D. A. Thompson.

Finance and Rating:-

All members of the Council

Chairman:- V. Lewis.

Vice-Chairman:- J. D. Williams.

Bryncoed,

Rhayader,

Rads.

1st May, 1969.

Mr. Chairman and Members,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report for the years 1967 and 1968.

This gives an indication of the state of health of the community, which has remained satisfactory throughout the period and there has been no widespread incidence of serious illness.

The estimated mid-year populations for 1968 is 4,010 - the corresponding figure for 1959 was 4,210.

That the depopulation trend would have been greater without the Council's eagerness to encourage light industry into this town needs no stressing. It must be a source of considerable satisfaction and encouragement to see so many of its young people employed locally in the new factories.

Further testimony to its efforts is now evident in the appearance of a new housing estate, with 84 houses, bungalows and flats under construction.

Progress with housing and work without the simultaneous development of social amenities may bring discontent, and in this context it is a disappointment that the need for a community centre to act as focus for social activities has not yet reached the stage of having its site decided upon.

I wish to thank you and all members of the Council Staff for help given to me throughout the year.

I am particularly grateful to the Public Health Inspector for his assistance and for his preparation of this report.

Yours faithfully,

JOHN DAVIES

GENERAL STATISTICS

	1966	1967
Area of District	91,240	acres
Estimated population (Gen. Registrars Figures)	4,090	4,100
Number of <u>Inhabited</u> Houses		
In Parishes		
Abbeycwmhir	69	70
Cefnlllys Rural	26	25
Llanbadarnfawr	172	170
Llanfihangel Helygen	15	14
Llansantffraid Cwmdeuddwr	156	160
Llanyre (Rural Ward)	87	89
Llanyre (Village Ward)	133	133
Nantmel	201	197
Rhayader	394	375
St. Harmon	143	150
	<u>1,396</u>	<u>1,383</u>

} 222
}

Total includes nine residential caravans

Rateable Value	£179,121
Product of Penny Rate	£721

GENERAL STATISTICS (Cont)

<u>Estimation of Population taken in Parishes</u>		<u>Area of Parish</u>
Abbeycwmhir	218	11,345
Cefnallys Rural	81	3,956
Llanbadarnfawr	510	3,871
Llanfihangel Helygen	41	1,470
Llansantffraid Cwmdeuddwr	441	32,172
Llanyre	664	5,915
Nantmel	591	16,934
Rhayader	1,155	194
St. Harmon	399	15,383
	<u>4,100</u>	<u>91,240</u>

NOTE These population figures are an estimate only and cannot pretend to be accurate. They have been based on personal assessment where this has been possible, and checked by the ratio of persons per house.

The ratio per house over the whole district is 2.964 but in areas with new housing estates, the figure is obviously higher. For example, in some of the Councils own housing estates, the number of children per house has risen at times to $3\frac{1}{4}$ and $3\frac{1}{2}$ units.

INTRODUCTION

In Mid-Wales, the most serious social problem is that of depopulation. Its full extent is shown by the statistics for Radnor which show a continual decrease from 23,281 in 1901; 22,590 in 1911; 18,410 in 1961, to 18,320 in 1967. It is forecast that by 1981 this will have fallen to 16,110. Something dramatic will be necessary to reverse the vicious circle of events which leads to this decline.

In its essentials, the root cause is poverty. Poverty in those services and social and domestic amenities which are taken for granted in urban areas; poverty in general wage levels; a relatively poor agricultural land, continually leached by a rainfall treble that on the East Coast; and poverty in natural resources. All these factors make a downward spiral circle of prosperity with fewer job opportunities and a further loss of population.

This Council have had the leadership, courage and foresight to encourage industry and promote tourism as palliatives. Their efforts were rewarded by an invitation to take part in a social and economic experiment in the Rhayader Expansion Plan.

The aims of this were not only to promote Rhayader, but to be a study into the problems of setting up small growth points. It is therefore, from national government level, an exercise in social and economic problems. It is equitable that where national government benefits, then local government should not be left to pay the bill. Indeed the report says that special funds may have to be provided if the proposals cannot be carried out within the existing framework of local authority expenditure.

There will be much discussion and need for good public relations if the Council are to have the backing of the people. It cannot be expected that such a complex document, with all its implications, will be fully appreciated by everyone and those whose homes and businesses are adversely affected will need to be assured that public benefit will not be based on private loss.

The future of this plan will therefore fall squarely on the shoulders of the Council. Subjected to many and conflicting pressures they will need great courage, leadership and determination to arrive at a decision which is bound to be unpopular with some, whatever the outcome.

HEALTH SERVICES

Personal health services are administered by the County Council. Environmental health services such as housing, sewerage, refuse disposal and public health are the responsibility of the District Council. To administer these, the District employ a part-time Medical Officer of Health, a Surveyor and a Public Health Inspector.

Just a few years ago, the two authorities, County and District, co-operated in building old persons bungalows linked to a home for aged people. In a society top heavy with older persons, the care of the aged becomes a heavier burden. The accommodation in the old persons home is proving inadequate in that there are persons waiting for admission. It seems obvious that whilst it might be uneconomic to have empty beds, nevertheless the service cannot be complete, unless and until, there is space into which old people might be taken immediately they decide to give up the unequal struggle of fending for themselves or depending on others. Indeed if economics were the only consideration, then there would be small justification for a home at all.

The Council anticipate that the demand for bungalows will continue and are planning for further units in their new estate. However, there is an objection which continually crops up, - that of isolation. It is obviously dearer to build two bedroomed units, but many old people fear that they can no longer accommodate their family or companions in time of sickness. Nationally this may be a small matter but here, where emigration is high, very few old people have their family living near. This is perhaps a local problem but, none the less, a very real one.

VITAL STATISTICS

	Males			Females		
	Total	Legit	Illegit	Total	Legit	Illegit
Live Births	24	23	1	36	34	2
Stillbirths	-	-	-	2	1	1
Deaths of Infants						
Under 1 year of age	1	1	-	1	-	1
Under 4 weeks of age	-	-	-	1	-	1
Under 1 week of age	-	-	-	1	-	-

COMPARISONS

Live Births	Crude rate per 1,000 home population	14.6
Live Births	Ratio of local adjusted birth to national rate	0.98
Stillbirths	Rate per 1,000 total births	32
<hr/>		
Deaths of Infants		
Under 1 year of age	Rate per 1,000 live births	33
Perinatal Mortality	Rate per 1,000 total births	48
<hr/>		
Deaths (All Ages) (49.)	Crude rate per 1,000 home population	12.0
Deaths (All Ages) (49.)	Ratio of local adjusted death rate to national rate	1.02

England and Wales

Live Births	832,000*	17.2 per 1,000 population
Stillbirths	12,500*	14.8 per 1,000 total births
Deaths	542,519	11.2 per 1,000 population
Infant Mortality (deaths under 1 yr. of age)	15,267	18.3 per 1,000 live births
Neonatal Mortality (deaths under 4 wks. of age)	10,436	12.5 per 1,000 live births
Early Neo-natal Mortality (deaths under 1 wk. of age)	8,947	10.8 per 1,000 live births
Perinatal Mortality (stillbirths and deaths under 1 wk. of age)	21,447	25.4 per 1,000 total births
* Estimates		

Deaths

Deaths	Male	Female
Malignant Neoplasms		
- stomach	1	2
- lung, bronchus	4	-
- breast	-	1
- others	3	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system	7	4
Coronary disease, Angina	6	6
Other heart disease	1	2
Other circulatory disease	1	1
Pneumonia	1	-
Bronchitis	1	-
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	-
Gastritis, enteritis & diarrhoea	-	1
Congenital Malformations	1	-
Other defined & ill-defined diseases	-	2
All other accidents	-	1
	<hr/> 27	<hr/> 22

49Deaths in Age Groups

Under 4 weeks	-	1
Over 4 weeks and under 1 year	1	-
15 - 24 years	-	1
25 - 34 years	-	-
35 - 44 "	1	-
45 - 54 "	-	-
55 - 64 "	2	1
65 - 74 "	11	6
75 and over	12	13
	<hr/> 27	<hr/> 22

49

Births & Deaths in Previous Years

	ACTUAL		Corrected rates per 1,000 pop.	
	Births	Deaths	Births	Deaths
1955-1966 (Average Figures)	59.3	46.8	17.3	11.0
1966	49	59	13.90	16.74
1967	62	49	17.54	11.36
1967 Rate per 1,000 pop. in England and Wales			17.2	11.2

Because of the smallness of the population, comparative figures cannot be properly judged over one or two years. The corrected rates for 1967 however, do bear comparison unlike those of 1966. Taken over the twelve years between 1955 and 1966 the rates compare favourably with the national average.

The surplus of births over deaths, the natural increase, shows a different picture. The surplus in the past 18 years is 113 but the actual population has fallen by 578, this means there has been an actual total of 691. This is the real measure of depopulation. There has been however, a slow but steady increase since 1961 when the figures were 4,050 so it seems that the Council's rescue operations are beginning to have an effect.

Infectious Diseases

The only notification during the year was one case of encephalitis.

Tuberculosis

			<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
New cases notified	...	....	-	-
Number on register:				
	Pulmonary	....	3	1
	Non-pulmonary	....	2	1

7

Common Lodging Houses

There are no common lodging houses.

National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 46

No action was necessary under this Act which gives power to remove persons in need of care and attention to institutions.

HOUSING

Housing Conditions

Although slum clearance laws were designed to have national application, the yardstick used may be different. Urban and rural problems are not identical so that slum clearance and house improvement in the rural areas is more a matter for psychology than law enforcement. When this is added to the fact that a very high proportion of houses are owner-occupied the position is made even more complex. Those tenanted houses which remain, are usually let at an extremely low rental and are more often occupied by persons well over the allocated 3 score years and ten. How does one convince such a person that his housing conditions are detrimental to health?

It might be difficult to appreciate that there are many people who do not want council houses, who prefer to be left in substandard houses and considerable powers of persuasion are needed to uproot such occupants from an environment they have lived in all their lives. In old age, the prospects of a new house full of gadgets may be viewed as persecution not as a benefit.

It is also a phenomenon of the times that, for many urban dwellers, their dearest ambition is to have a rural cottage, the poorer and more remote the better. Thus arises the position where a house which is classed as being repairable only at unreasonable expense, increases ten fold in value when it is vacated. Many such houses have been bought up for country homes and are now "modernised" and **refurbished**; nor is this confined to any one class of society, the list running through barristers, architects, and school teachers to shop stewards..

If slum clearance needs psychology, house improvement often needs downright cunning. It is not just a question of mixed priorities that many farms have T.V. and cars but no W.C., - what you have never had you never miss and T.V. does pass away long winter evenings, whilst the car is vital in such a remote area with few public services. It is shattering to ones dedication to public health to realise that an appeal to pride can have much better results than any discourse on health. Personal knowledge of a family and a good sense of timing is as important as a knowledge of the Housing Acts.

The man about to wed must have a new bathroom, give him a few years and he would rather have a new barn; to sisters it is important that each husband should be a good provider; and the slightly older farmer must prepare for retirement and is ready for more comforts.

Mix these ingredients together and a farmer with several daughters of marriageable age can soon form the nucleus of an improvement area at the cost of some flattery or by the merest hint of patronage.

It might be thought regrettable that the gods of avarice and envy should be more important than the goddess Hygea but does it really matter if the results are the same?

At one time it was the fashion to refer to unfit houses as those in Categories 4 and 5, or houses which should be condemned. Present trends are to define houses as being substandard when they are lacking basic amenities.

On the first definition, the stock of "in use" unfit houses has dropped from 393 (29%) in 1959 to 216 (17.7%) at present, and of these, the worst of all (Category 5) have decreased from 137 to 34, or from 10% to 2.5%.

Taking the second definition, - that a house is unsatisfactory if it does not have full amenities, there has still been a great improvement. This time the figures are 844 (62%) in 1959 to 533 (36%) in 1967.

This improvement has been achieved in two ways; firstly the abandonment of the purely unfit, secondly by considerable use of improvement grants. In this respect the Council can be proud of their record. Every encouragement is given to applicants for grants and form filling is kept to a minimum, whilst they are welcomed to advise on technical and constructional problems. Quite often a scheme is decided before professional advice is sought for the final run down.

The position regarding grants is given in Appendix B where it will be seen that the totals for the year were:- discretionary grants £1,439. 9. 0.; standard grants £2,215. 19. 1. This has resulted in the improvement of 15 houses.

Referring back to Appendix A it will be seen that the number of occupied houses has fallen from 1966 and the percentage compared with 1959 is 93% as against 95%. This is a matter of some concern, especially as there is an increasing demand for housing with the influx of industry.

A number of explanations can be given for this:- some are being held by farmers and others whose retirement is imminent and who are afraid to let because of the difficulty of obtaining possession; some are being held as holiday cottages; some are held up because of uncertainty over the expansion plan; and others are waiting for suitable applicants, being let as tied or service properties.

Overall the picture is reasonably healthy but there is no case for complacency. There remains much work to be done. However, in a district so close knit and which is historically stubborn and independant, there is no doubt that the most satisfying results will come from persuasion rather than legislation.

SEWERAGE

The figures for sewerage schemes have altered little during this year. The disposal plant for Abbeycwmhir is not yet under way, although Llanyre will be ready.

The disappointing feature is that of St. Harmon where, in spite of frequent requests to join the main, very little change has taken place.

The position is tabulated in Appendix 'C'.

WATER SUPPLIES

There have been no significant changes in water supplies during this year, nor is it anticipated that there will be anything other than minor alterations in the future since all the major schemes have been completed. The emphasis in the coming years therefore will be in improvements and private supplies.

MEAT INSPECTION

There is no slaughterhouse in the district and meat is bought 'off the hook' from Builth, Llandrindod Wells, Llanidloes and farther afield. The inspection stamp is easily recognised and no cases were observed where unstamped meat was on display.

OTHER FOODS

Number and types of food premises in the district are:-

Grocers	...	...	...	...	...	30
Butchers	...	...	...	...	...	5
Public Houses	...	...	...	...	...	16
Hotels	...	...	...	...	...	7
Cafes, Restaurants	...	...	...	...	...	5
School Canteens	...	...	...	...	...	10

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

In a district of more than 140 square miles, around 400 farms, as many scattered cottages and but one refuse lorry it is not feasible to think of a 100% refuse collection. Demand for extensions of the routes are often made and usually agreed upon. The influx of visitors in the summer brings a dramatic increase in the quantity and density of the refuse. This problem has been worsening steadily until the service could only be maintained with a great deal of overtime.

It was therefore obvious that considerable changes had to be made and that the 10 cu. yd. side loader was no longer adequate. After several surveys, a report was received by the Committee who recommended that a modern rear loading compression vehicle be purchased and when this was delivered a complete reappraisal be made of the service. It was hoped to collect Rhayader once a week only, instead of twice at present, thus eliminating the greatest cause of overtime and that by the larger capacity of a new vehicle to further extend the service in outlying areas. The order was placed in the mid year for delivery early in 1968.

Disposal problems persisted throughout the year mainly due to the scarcity of cover material, lack of labour and the exposed nature of the site. This was complicated by the problem of disposal of sludge. Although efforts were made to remedy all the problems it cannot be said that these were entirely satisfactory and areas were left uncovered for longer periods than those recommended. However, although lacking on aesthetic grounds every effort was made to prevent this ever becoming a public health hazard.

An unusual problem which constantly arises is that of birds. It is ironical that a rare bird should be so common here as to be a nuisance, these are ravens. Together with crows, they haunt the tip in large flocks. The Ministry of Agriculture has been consulted and various cage traps tried out although as perches they were successful, as traps they were not. The only answer seems to be a careful programme to maintain the natural balance and perhaps narcotics should be used to keep numbers down for farmers are justifiably anxious at lambing time. The real answer seems to be that the amount of food available means a higher survival rate during the winter upsetting this natural balance. On the other hand this probably also means that they do not seek for food so much on farms and so do not take so many ground pests or lambs.

The other visitors are starlings, with so much food available they haunt the tip apparently returning each evening to plantations about 20 miles away where their numbers, and body heat have been sufficient to kill the trees.

PUBLIC SWIMMING POOL

There is a small pool for infants in the Waun Capel Parc. owned by the Parish Council. Water is pumped from the river. It is not properly treated although assistance has been given to install an improvised chlorination plant.

The older children and adults have a natural swimming pool in a part of the River Wye in Waun Capel Parc and this is well used in hot weather, even though the river temperature is invariably low.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES

Registrations are: Offices - 7; Shops - 20; catering premises - 12 fuel storage depots - 1; total 40.

Twelve visits were made to these premises during the year.

FACTORIES

There are 23 factories on the register.

The main complaint was from quarry dust. Fortunately this is emitted in a fairly isolated spot although there are three houses within range. It is hoped that a solution will soon be found for what must be a danger to the health of the people employed there.

Premises	Number on Register	Number		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
1. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	1			
2. Factories not included in 1 in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	23	10		
3. Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (Excluding out-workers' premises).				
TOTAL	24	10		

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	To H.M. Inspector (4)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)					
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	1				
(b) Unsuitable or defective					
(c) Not separate for sexes	1				
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to out-work)	1				
TOTAL	3				

APPENDIX A

Occupied Houses in Categories						Unoccupied Houses in Categories					
1	2	3	4	5	Total	1	3	4	5	Total	Total
<u>Abbeycwmhir</u>											
33	2	18	15	2	70	-	2	4	-	6	76
%43.5	2.5	24	20	2.5	92.5	--	2.5.	5.0	-	7.5	100
<u>Cefnlllys Rural</u>											
12	-	4	8	1	25	-	1	-	1	2	27
%44	-	15	29	4	92	-	4	-	4	8	100
<u>Llanbadarnfawr</u>											
120	3	33	9	5	170	1	4	6	1	12	182
%66	2	18	5	3	94	0.5	2	3	0.5	6	100
<u>Llanfihangel Helygen</u>											
4	-	8	2	-	14	-	-	1	-	1	15
%27	-	53	13	-	93	-	-	7	-	7	100
<u>Llansantffraid Cwmdeuddwr</u>											
105	1	27	22	5	160	4	2	6	1	13	172
%61	0.5	16	13	3	93.5	2	1	3	0.5	6.5	100
<u>Llanyre Parish</u>											
113	5	66	37	1	222	2	5	2	1	10	232
%48	2	28	15	0.5	93.5	1	4	1	0.5	6.5	100
<u>Nantmel</u>											
85	7	63	35	7	197	4	7	6	1	18	215
%39.5	3	29	16	3	90.5	2	4	3	0.5	9.5	100
<u>Rhayader</u>											
292	2	51	21	9	375	16	12	2	5	35	410
%71.5	0.5	12.5	5	2	91.5	4	3	0.5	1	8.5	100
<u>St. Harmon</u>											
65	1	47	33	4	150	-	6	3	-	9	159
%40.5	1.5	29	20	3	94	-	4	2	-	6	100

APPENDIX A (cont)

1967

Category 1.	(fit in all respects)		
	829 (55.5%) occupied }	856	(57.3%)
	27 (1.8%) empty }		
Category 2.	(some slight defects)		
	21 (2.0%) occupied }	21	(2.0%)
	none empty }		
Category 3.	(fit but lacking amenities)		
	317 (21.0%) occupied }	356	(23.6%)
	39 (2.6%) empty }		
Category 4.	(unfit)		
	182 (12.0%) occupied }	212	(14.0%)
	30 (2.0%) empty }		
Category 5.	(unfit and incapable of repair at reasonable expense)		
	34 (2.5%) occupied }	44	(3.1%)
	10 (0.6%) empty }		

Occupied Houses	1,383	(93.0%)
Empty Houses	106	(7.0%)

Total Houses	<u>1,489</u>
--------------	--------------

1959

Category 1.	-	499	-	36%
" 2.	-	32	-	2%
" 3.	-	451	-	33%
" 4.	-	256	-	19%
" 5.	-	137	-	10%
Total		<u>1,375</u>	-	all houses

No. of occupied 1,307 - 95%

No. of empty 68 - 5%

APPENDIX B

STANDARD GRANTS

Year	Approved	Number Paid	Actual Cost of Amenities			Grant Paid		
			£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
1960	15	9	2,232.	10.	0.	1,054.	15.	0.
1961	10	9	3,329.	18.	6.	1,290.	0.	0.
1962	19	8	2,561.	17.	11.	950.	13.	1.
1963	9	6	2,740.	17.	5.	812.	13.	11.
1964	19	10	4,882.	4.	0.	1,510.	17.	2.
1965	22	8	3,052.	17.	1.	1,289.	0.	4.
1966	24	22	8,947.	14.	4.	3,756.	14.	2.
1967	12	11	5,663.	14.	11.	2,215.	19.	1.
	127	82	33,411.	14.	2.	12,880.	12.	9.

APPENDIX B (Cont)

DISCRETIONARY GRANTS

Year	Number Approved	Completed Grants		Grant Paid
		Number Paid	Approved Cost of Amenities	
			£. s. d.	£. s. d.
1952	5	4	1,673. 16. 6.	816. 8. 0.
1953	1	1	258. 17. 5.	124. 0. 0.
1954	5	4,	1,787. 14. 6.	893. 7. 3.
1955	9	5	1,685. 10. 0.	841. 0. 0.
1956	5	6	1,820. 7. 3.	886. 10. 0.
1957	9	8	4,545. 0. 0.	2,200. 0. 0.
1958	9	4	2,602. 0. 0.	1,264. 0. 0.
1959	5	7	5,133. 0. 0.	2,175. 0. 0.
1960	7	8	5,038. 16. 0.	2,453. 0. 0.
1961	5	2	1,439. 0. 0.	700. 0. 0.
1962	5	5	3,936. 12. 0.	1,735. 0. 0.
1963	5	2	1,642. 0. 0.	743. 0. 0.
1964	3	8	6,123. 18. 6.	2,917. 10. 0.
1965	5	1	1,006. 1. 7.	400. 0. 0.
1966	5	5	5,974. 0. 0.	2,000. 0. 0.
1967	5	4	4,470. 18. 0.	1,439. 9. 0.
	88	74	49,127. 11. 9.	21,588. 4. 3.

APPENDIX C

Parish	W.C. to Sewer	W.C. to Septic Tank	Pail	Total	Future W.C's to sewer
Abbeycwmhir	-	36 47%	40 53%	76	6
Cefnlllys Rural	-	13 49%	14 51%	27	-
Llanbadarnfawr	86 47%	52 29%	44 24%	182	-
Llanfihangel Helygen	-	4 27%	11 73%	15	-
Llansantffraid Cwmdeuddwr	93 54%	39 23%	41 23%	173	-
Llanyre Rural	10 7%	39 41%	46 49%	95	15
Llanyre Village	125 91%	2 2%	10 7%	137	-
Nantmel	9 4%	92 43%	114 53%	215	-
Rhayader	401 97%	3 1%	6 2%	410	5
St. Harmon	12 8%	61 38%	86 54%	159	9
TOTALS	736 40%	341 29%	411 31%	1489	35

APPENDIX D

Parish	PUBLIC		PRIVATE		No. of Sinks	No. of Baths
	Piped	Source of Carried	Supply Piped	Carried		
Abbeycwmhir 76 houses	22	-	42	12	69	33
Cefnlllys Rural 27 houses	7	-	12	8	21	12
Llanbadarnfawr 182 houses	150	-	20	12	169	124
Llanfihangel Helygen 15 houses	11	-	1	3	12	4
Llansantffraid Cwmdeuddwr 172 houses	97*	5	51	19	158	113
Llanyre Rural 95 houses	49	-	34	12	90	43
Llanyre Village 137 houses	132	3	1	1	133	79
Nantmel 215 houses	80	5	92	38	175	96
Rhayader 410 houses	390	20	-	-	396	310
St. Harmon 159 houses	58	-	63	38	120	67
1488 houses	996	33	316	143	1333	881

* includes those connected to Birmingham Water Department mains.

ANNUAL REPORT - 1968

Chairman: D. H. Bound

Vice-Chairman: G. D. Morgan, C.C.

Councillors as 1967 that is:-

Councillors: F. P. Hamer and A. R. Lewis	- Abbeycwmhir
J. W. Bufton	- Cefnlllys Rural
I. J. Lewis and C. H. Price	- Llanbadarnfawr
J. D. Williams; V. Lewis }	- Llansantffraid
T. A. Morgan; M. A. Pugh }	Cwmdeuddwr
Mrs F. A. Goldby and J. E. Jones	- Llanyre
R. E. P. Jones; Rev. M. E. Evans; }	- Nantmel
S. M. Richards.	
Ald. R. P. L. Hughes and G. D. Morgan,	- Rhayader
C.C.	
D. H. Bound and Ald. E. T. K. Morgan,	- St. Harmon
C.B.E., J.P.	

Committees as 1967, Chairmen as follows:-

Public Health & Housing - V. Lewis - Chairman
J. D. Williams - Vice-Chairman

Finance & Rating - J. D. A. Thompson, J.P. - Chairman
C. H. Price - Vice Chairman

VITAL STATISTICS

Estimated Mid-Year Population
(Gen. Registrars Figures)

4,010

It should be pointed out that these figures are estimated only. They are based on the number of inhabited houses as shown in the various housing returns. They do not take into account the fact that many of the houses now in use, form part of new housing estates where the number of children are usually more numerous.

Taking this into account, there are grounds to believe that the actual population will not have fallen from 1967 and in fact may well have increased.

Area Comparability factors

Births - 1.16

Deaths - 0.96

Health Services

There has been no change in the function of the various health services. After some difficulties the County have arranged a weekly chiropody service.

Births and Deaths

	MALES			FEMALES		
	Total	Legit	Illegit	Total	Legit	Illegit
Live Births	22	21	1	23	22	1
Still Births	-	-	-	-	-	-
Deaths of Infants						
under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-
under 1 month	-	-	-	-	-	-
under 1 week	-	-	-	-	-	-
Deaths - All ages	25			28		

Illegitimate Live Births - 3.7% of total live births.

Comparisons

Live Births

- crude	rate per 1,000 home population	11.2
- corrected	" " " " "	13.02
- corrected rate as ratio of national rate		0.77

Still Births

Nil

Deaths of Infants

- all rates per 1,000 live and still births	Nil
---	-----

Deaths - all ages

- crude	rate per 1,000 home population	13.2
- corrected	" " " " "	12.69
- corrected rate as ratio of national rate		1.06

Causes of deaths at different periods of life

Cause of death	Sex	Total	Age in Years				
			35+	45+	55+	65+	75+
Malignant neoplasms							
- stomach	M	1	-	-	1	-	-
- lung and bronchus	M	1	-	1	-	-	-
- breast	F	1	-	-	-	1	-
Other malignant neoplasms	M	4	-	-	2	2	-
	F	3	-	-	-	1	2
Diabetes Mellitus	F	1	-	-	-	1	-
Other diseases of nervous system	F	1	-	-	-	-	1
Chronic rheumatic heart disease	F	1	-	-	1	-	-
Ischaemic heart disease	M	6	-	-	2	2	2
	F	8	-	-	1	4	3
Other forms of heart disease	M	1	-	-	-	-	1
	F	2	-	-	-	-	2
Cerebro vascular disease	M	4	-	-	-	2	2
	F	7	-	-	2	2	3
Other diseases of circulatory system	M	3	-	-	-	-	3
	F	1	-	-	-	1	-
Pneumonia	M	2	-	-	-	-	2
Bronchitis and emphysema	M	2	1	-	1	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	F	1	-	1	-	-	-
Motor vehicle accidents	F	1	-	-	-	1	-
Suicide and self inflicted	M	1	-	-	-	-	1
Total - all causes	M	25	1	1	6	6	11
	F	28	-	1	4	11	12

Births and Deaths

There is a drop in the number of births in 1968 (45) as compared with 1967 (62) and the number is well below the annual average of live and still births over the previous ten years (61). The variation in this period lies within the range 45 in 1968 and 75 in 1960.

There were no deaths or still births of infants in 1968.

There were 53 deaths in all age groups in 1968. This compares with a yearly average of 51 over ten years with a variation between 38 in 1965 and 59 in 1966.

Causes of Deaths

Deaths from all forms of cancer in 1968 make up a small proportion of the total, namely 6%. whilst diseases of the circulatory system account for 62%.

Comparison with figures over the ten year period show that causes of death from cancer are consistent within the range 15 - 18% (Av. 16%) and from circulatory diseases are also pretty consistent in the range 50 - 60% (Av. 54%) and that there is no significant trend with either of these two major groups.

With respect to deaths from cancer of particular sites:-

- 1) from lung cancer we average between 1 and 2 deaths (1.7) a year i.e. 3% of total deaths over a ten year period.
- 2) from cancer of the stomach the figures are similar i.e. between 1 and 2 deaths (1.7) a year and i.e. 3% of total deaths over a seven year period.
- 3) from cancer of the breast the average is less than one a year (0.75) i.e. 1.5% of total deaths over an eight year period.

Infectious Diseases

No notifications were received.

Tuberculosis

The figures are the same as for 1967.

HOUSING

A diploma was received by the Council for Maesyderi estate from the Welsh Office, for good design in housing in 1967. This was an entry in the higher density housing schemes with seventeen dwellings to the acre.

As the tendency for high density building is continued in the new East Street site, it might be questioned whether such dense development is essential in an area such as this, a natural consequence of which is the disappearance of trees and green areas from within the town boundaries.

In April 1968, the Government issued its 'White Paper "Old Houses into New Homes"'. This proposed measures to stimulate the improvement of houses and grant increases were promised. Whilst the intentions were laudable, the delay into putting this into action is lamentable. The impetus of the housing drive has been lost, only essential works have been done during the year and many are waiting for the "off". An indirect effect has been upon the local building industry. Beset by these delays, credit restrictions and steeply rising costs, there has been an inevitable run down. If, and when, the movement is again commenced, demand may well outstrip production, and raising costs still higher.

The effects of this premature announcement were not really felt until the second half of the year. There were a number of grants in the pipe line at this time. That it would have been a great year is shown by the fact that grants approved and completed were:-

	<u>Standard Grants</u>							
	<u>Approved</u>	<u>Paid</u>	<u>Actual Cost</u>			<u>Grant Paid</u>		
1968	15	16	£ 8,426.	11.	9.	£ 3,443.	11.	1.
Total	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>			<u> </u>		
to date	442	98	£41,838.	5.	11.	£16,324.	3.	10.
<hr/>								
	<u>Discretionary Grants</u>							
	<u>Approved</u>	<u>Paid</u>	<u>Actual Cost</u>			<u>Grant Paid</u>		
1968	10	6	£ 5,133.	0.	0.	£ 2,159.	0.	0.
Total	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>			<u> </u>		
to date	98	80	£54,260.	11.	9.	£23,747.	4.	3.
<hr/>								

With the drying up of Hill Farming Grants, and a total of 22 Housing Act Improvements during the year, there will be little change in housing condition. Also bearing in mind the lack of time if these two reports are to be presented together, it has not been thought possible to revise completely the whole of the figures.

As an estimate, these figures should now read:-

Category 1.	Total	878	-	58.9%
Category 2.	"	21	-	1.4%
Category 3.	"	338	-	22.7%
Category 4.	"	208	-	13.9%
Category 5.	"	44	-	3.1%
		<u>1,489</u>		<u>100%</u>

During the year, a pilot study of housing conditions was made by the Welsh Office. The results were not published nor is it known what houses were visited. There is reason to believe that the definition used of a substandard house would have been that referred to in the narrative to housing in the 1967 section. If this is so, then the percentage of substandard dwellings will now be 39.7. Taking out those empty or waiting improvement it is probable that about 35%+ are actually in use.

SEWERAGE

Rhayader

Surcharging of sewers resulted in complaints from owners on the outfall sections.

It is hoped that with the renewal of mains in the town, thus decreasing the amount of infiltration water, good progress will be made towards solving this problem.

With the town expansion, the disposal works are to be increased to twice its present capacity and a new outfall sewer to be provided.

Abbeycwmhir

Work is about to start on this small scheme and should be in use in 1969.

St. Harmon

In spite of repeated requests, not all the properties are yet connected to the sewer. It is likely that statutory action will have to be used if the Council are to fulfil the undertaking given at the time the works were approved.

WATER SUPPLIES

Again there will be little change in the figures for water supplies, and in fact there was very little movement in private supplies. There were no cases of shortage of water in spite of the dry summer and it seems that this is a problem which has been largely solved.

With the exception of a few springs in the Crossgates area all water is soft and plumbo-solvent. This ~~raises~~no problems for lead has never been in much use for supply pipes.

MEAT INSPECTION

There is no slaughterhouse or poultry dressing plant in the area.

Food Hygiene (general) Regulations 1960

	Reg. 16	Reg. 19		Total
		Applies	Satisfactory	
Grocers	30	23	22	30
Butchers	5	5	4	5
Public Houses	15	15	14	15
Hotels	7	7	7	7
Cafes, Restaurants	5	5	5	5
School Canteens	10	10	10	10
Wet Fish Foods	-	-	-	-

The classes of food premises are unchanged from 1967. The position regarding Regulations 16 and 19 is as above.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

At the beginning of the year the new refuse vehicle was delivered. Soon after this the Council accepted a report on the collection service and as a result they authorised a new system of routes. Rhayader, which had previously had a twice weekly collection was split into two areas, each having only a weekly collection. In the outlying districts the service was doubled from fortnightly to weekly. There are now very few places, and these the most remote, which have only a fortnightly collection, a handful of farms are still on a monthly collection.

The method is still "kerbside" with the exception of a paper sack collection, from the houses themselves, from the housing estate in Rhayader.

There is no doubt that the "kerbside" method is not satisfactory, but without greatly increased costs it cannot be bettered. Those houses with a paper sack collection are well satisfied, there are no problems and it is liked by the collectors.

Refuse disposal is by "controlled" tipping. It is not yet possible to carry this out and comply with all the recommended practises. Thus some is left unspread, but seldom more than three days. The sides are not always properly covered and cover material is difficult to obtain.

The Council are not satisfied themselves with conditions and it is hoped that virtually full control will be possible in the coming year.

PUBLIC SWIMMING POOL

There is no change in the position from 1967.

CARAVAN PARK/CARAVAN SITES

In a tourist area the demand for sites continues to grow. Liasion with the Caravan Club is now good and these present few problems. The small private sites are growing in number and it is difficult to properly supervise these, though no nuisances, apart from the aesthetic, have arisen.

The Council's own site was extended during the year to include a three acre field for tenting. This is proving a great attraction and the Councils courage in going ahead with this, in the face of local opposition, has been well awarded. They are to be applauded on their policy of progressive improvement and expansion and although this involves a great deal of work, the favourable comments received are most encouraging.

FACTORIES

Two problems not yet resolved are a case of dust emitted from a quarry and lack of sanitary conveniences at a factory. The newer factories have, of course, a high standard and under present day conditions it is unlikely that this will ever be allowed to drop.

Premises	Number on Register			
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
1. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	1			
2. Factories not included in 1 in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	23	6		
3. Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (Excluding out-workers' premises).	1	1		
TOTAL	25	7		

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	by H.M. Inspector (5)	
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)					
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	1				
(b) Unsuitable or defective					
(c) Not separate for sexes					
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to out-work)	1				
TOTAL	2				

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES

Registrations are: Officers - 7; Shops - 20;
Catering premises - 12; fuel depots - 1;

TOTAL 40.

19 visits were made to these premises during the year.

